

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for improving service accounting in a network, the method comprising the
2 steps of:
 - 3 authenticating and authorizing a client;
 - 4 sending an authorization accept message that includes an accounting record; and
 - 5 causing the accounting record to be logged.
- 1 2. A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step of obtaining the
2 accounting record for the client from an external resource.
- 1 3. A method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising the step of obtaining the
2 accounting record for the client from a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol directory.
- 1 4. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the client is selected from the group
2 consisting of a wireless network client, a wired network client, and a dial up client.
- 1 5. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises
2 causing the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.
- 1 6. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises
2 causing the accounting record to be logged on an authentication, authorization, and
3 accounting server.
- 1 7. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises
2 causing the accounting record to be logged on a network device.

1 8. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises
2 logging the accounting record with a session start log entry.

1 9. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises
2 logging the accounting record with a session stop log entry.

1 10. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the accounting record comprises a handle to
2 a second accounting record.

1 11. A method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
2 retrieving the second accounting record using the handle to the second accounting
3 record; and
4 causing the second accounting record to be logged.

1 12. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the accounting record comprises data in a
2 plurality of attribute-value pairs.

1 13. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of sending is performed in a
2 protocol selected from the group consisting of Remote Authentication Dial In User Service,
3 Terminal Access Controller Access Control System, Diameter, and Security Assertion
4 Markup Language.

1 14. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a particular data set is used in the step of
2 authenticating and authorizing and the accounting record comprises said particular data set.

1 15. A method for improving service accounting in a network, the method comprising the
2 steps of:
3 sending an authorization request;
4 receiving an accounting record with an authorization accept message; and

5 causing the accounting record to be logged.

1 16. A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises
2 causing the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.

1 17. A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises
2 causing the accounting record to be logged on an authentication, authorization, and
3 accounting server.

1 18. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 1.

1 19. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 2.

1 20. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 3.

1 21. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 4.

1 22. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 5.

1 23. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 6.

1 24. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 7.

1 25. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 8.

1 26. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 9.

1 27. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 10.

1 28. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 11.

1 29. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 12.

1 30. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 13.

1 31. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 14.

1 32. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 15.

1 33. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 16.

1 34. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3 method recited in Claim 17.